

28 March 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

1. This memorandum recommends action in Paragraph 7.

2. Herewith the brief profile by Saul Pett, of ASSOCIATED PRESS News Features, on the DCI and CIA. The theme of the interview is that Americans talk too much while the Russians and the English don't, and Mr. Dulles is disciplined in not revealing too much; but then it goes on quoting him in considerable detail, making him look like the Country's intelligence leader who talks much too much.

3. Page 2, line 12 from the top mentions "daily reports and appraisals President Kennedy finds on his desk from Dulles." Page 4, line 3 has the DCI easily dismissing "the Communist charge that the projected peace corps is an elaborate plot for the CIA to infiltrate agents abroad." Page 4, bottom of the page, Mr. Dulles says "one good friend of mine was shot in Laos just the other day." Also, "we do have a percentage of breakdowns due to cumulative strain." Page 5, line 2 goes on that "Laos, for example, is not an easy place to be these days. We have many people in the capitals around the world but we have a higher proportion in the smaller out of the way places where just the business of living is not easy."

4. First: Why make any reference to what the President receives from CIA which may or may not be the basis for White House action? Why, with the current delicate situation in Laos, advertise that we have agents there and throughout the world, not only in the capitals but also in the places where it is difficult to live because they are out of the way? Why advertise that one of our people was shot, even though accidentally, in Laos just the other day?

5. The further statement on the top of Page 3 quoting Mr. Dulles that "he does not go to bed worrying about this or that agent whose life at that moment may be in extreme peril" will be taken by some people to be a most callous viewpoint

of the Director's concern for his agents in the field. Also, on Page 2, middle of the page, it is stated that we get 80 per cent of our intelligence from overt material and 20 per cent from clandestine sources, etc. This "80 - 20" figure has a bad public relations effect. People wonder why we have a large building and a supposedly large number of employees if 8 out of 10 people are reading and studying overt publications.

6. I note in the attached covering letter from Mr. Pett that he asked for quick clearance and said that the DCI promised to be generous.

7. Recommendation: That I telephone Pett, who is in New York, and discuss some of these things with him; e.g., the idea of having him cut out all references to Laos, of killing the direct quotes (which I doubt he will do), and of trying to get him to give a more accurate picture of the Director as a pipe-smoking (not chewing), more silent intelligence leader.

STANLEY J. GROGAN
Assistant to the Director

Attach.

cc: DDCI w/o attach.